United Nations A/73/585

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 November 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 70

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Katharina **Konzett-Stoffl** (Austria)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled:

"Promotion and protection of the rights of children:

"(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children;

"(b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee held a general discussion on the item at its 11th to 15th meetings, from 9 to 11 October 2018. The Committee considered proposals and took action on the item at its 46th, 48th and 55th meetings on 13, 15 and 20 November. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 70 (a)
Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (A/73/41)

Report of the Secretary-General on the issue of child early and forced marriage (A/73/257)

Report of the Secretary-General on protecting children from bullying (A/73/265)

[1] A/C.3/73/SR.11, A/C.3/73/SR.12, A/C.3/73/SR.13, A/C.3/73/SR.14, A/C.3/73/SR.15, A/C.3/73/SR.46, A/C.3/73/SR.48 and A/C.3/73/SR.55.

Please recycle

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/73/272)

Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (A/73/276)

Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (A/73/278)

Note by the Secretariat on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material (A/73/174 and A/73/174/Corr.1)

Item 70 (b)
Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on children (A/73/223)

4. At its 11th meeting, on 9 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Estonia, Qatar, Spain, Slovenia, the European Union, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Germany, Malaysia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, South Africa, Algeria, Yemen, Morocco, Liechtenstein, Israel and Libya, as well as by the observer of the State of Palestine.

5. At the same meeting, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, the Syrian Arab Republic, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Mexico, Norway, Brazil, Estonia, Slovenia and the Dominican Republic.

6. Also at the same meeting, the observer of the Council of Europe made a statement.

7. Also at the 11th meeting, the Director of Programmes of the United Nations Children's Fund made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic and Costa Rica.

8. At its 12th meeting, on 9 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Japan, Switzerland, the European Union, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

9. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the European Union, Ireland, the Dominican Republic and Mexico.

10. Also at the same meeting, the independent Expert and lead author for the global study on children deprived of liberty made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Spain, South Africa, Austria, Mexico, Switzerland, the European Union and Germany (also on behalf of France).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.22/Rev.1

11. At its 48th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Child, early and forced marriage" (A/C.3/73/L.22/Rev.1), which replaced draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.22 and was submitted by Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Belize, Benin, Canada, the Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Monaco, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Romania, South Sudan, Spain, Zimbabwe and Zambia. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, the Comoros, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, France, the Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

12. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

13. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Zambia made a statement.

14. Also at the 48th meeting, the representative of the United States made a statement, orally proposed an amendment to the twenty-third preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 14, 17 and 18 of draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.22/Rev.1 and requested a brief suspension of the meeting.

15. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Canada, also on behalf of Zambia.

16. Also at the same meeting, the Chair made a statement, to which the representative of Canada responded.

17. Also at the 48th meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the United States, after which the Secretary of the Committee made a clarification.

18. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States moved to suspend the meeting under rule 118 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

19. Also at the same meeting, the motion to suspend the meeting was rejected by a recorded vote of 73 to 33, with 33 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guyana, India, Iraq, Kiribati, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Yemen.

Against:

Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia.

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Angola, Brunei Darussalam, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vanuatu, Viet Nam.

20. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of New Zealand (also on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay), the Russian Federation, Namibia, Uruguay, Cuba, South Africa, Australia and Canada.

21. Also at the same meeting, the Committee rejected the oral amendment proposed by the United States by a recorded vote of 96 to 33, with 35 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Bahrain, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guyana, Iraq, Jamaica, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia.

Abstaining:

Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Uzbekistan.

22. Before the vote, a statement was made by the United States, and statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Austria (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Norway, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), the United Kingdom and Finland (also on behalf of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden). After the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Jamaica, Pakistan, Nigeria, Libya, Egypt and Indonesia.

Action on draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.22/Rev.1 as a whole

23. At the 48th meeting, on 15 November, a statement was made by the representative of the Russian Federation.

24. Also at the 48th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.22/Rev.1, as a whole (see para. 56, draft resolution I).

25. After the adoption, a statement was made by the observer of the Holy See.

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.25/Rev.1

26. At its 46th meeting, on 13 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Protecting children from bullying" (A/C.3/73/L.25/Rev.1), which replaced draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.25 and was submitted by Brazil, Canada, the Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Honduras, Lesotho, Mexico, Paraguay and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Czechia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

27. At the same meeting, the representative of Mexico made a statement.

28. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.25/Rev.1 (see para. 56, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.26/Rev.1 and amendment contained in document A/C.3/73/L.61

29. At its 55th meeting, on 20 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Rights of the Child" (A/C.3/73/L.26/Rev.1), which replaced draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.26 and was submitted by Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Togo, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

30. At the same meeting, the representative of Uruguay made a statement and orally revised the draft resolution.[2]

31. Also at the same meeting, Armenia, Australia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Maldives, Morocco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia and Turkey joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

32. Also at the 55th meeting, the representative of Austria (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) made a statement.

33. At the same meeting, a statement on a point of order was made by the representative of the Comoros.

34. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Uruguay made a statement.

35. Also at the 55th meeting, the Secretary of the Committee announced that Mexico had withdrawn its sponsorship of the draft resolution, as orally revised.

36. At the same meeting, the representative of Mexico made a statement and orally proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 21 of the draft resolution, as orally revised.

37. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United States made a statement and orally proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 21 of the draft resolution, as orally revised.

38. Also at the 55th meeting, the Secretary of the Committee made a clarification as to the sequence of action that the Committee would take on the draft and oral amendments.

39. At the same meeting, statements were made on a point of order by the representatives of the United States and the Comoros, to which the Secretary of the Committee and the Chair responded.

40. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Mexico made a statement.

[2] See A/C.3/73/SR.55.

Action on the amendment contained in document A/C.3/73/L.61

41. At its 55th meeting, on 20 November, the Committee had before it an amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.26/Rev.1, contained in document A/C.3/73/L.61, submitted by the Sudan. Subsequently, the Syrian Arab Republic joined in sponsoring the amendment.

42. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Sudan.

43. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Uruguay made a statement.

44. Also at the 55th meeting, the Committee rejected the draft amendment by a recorded vote of 105 to 20, with 37 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Bahrain, Belarus, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Eritrea, Iraq, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia.

Abstaining:

Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Viet Nam.

45. Before the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Austria (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Liechtenstein (also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland). After the vote, a statement was made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Action on the first oral amendment

46. At the 55th meeting, on 20 November, a statement on a point of order was made by the United States, to which the Secretary of the Committee responded.

47. At the same meeting, the Chair ruled that the Committee, in accordance with rule 113 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, would proceed to take action first on the amendment orally proposed by Mexico because the oral amendment by the United States was contingent on the results of the vote on the oral amendment by Mexico.

48. Also at the same meeting, a statement and a statement on a point of order were made by the representative of Mexico.

49. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States and Uruguay.

50. Also at its 55th meeting, the Committee rejected the oral amendment by a recorded vote of 74 to 11, with 81 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Argentina, Australia, Lebanon, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, Suriname, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia.

Against:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait. Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Viet Nam.

51. Before the vote, the representative of the Comoros, on behalf of the Group of African States, made a statement, and statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Austria (on behalf of the European Union) and Australia. After the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Iceland (also on behalf of Liechtenstein and New Zealand), Canada and South Africa.

Action on the second oral amendment

52. At the 55th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of the United States made a statement that, in view of the Chair's ruling and in the light of the rejection

of the oral amendment by Mexico, there was no need for the Committee to take action on the second oral amendment.

Action on draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.26/Rev.1, as orally revised

53. At its 55th meeting, on 20 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.26/Rev.1, as orally revised (see para. 56, draft resolution III).

54. After the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, the United States, Hungary, Egypt, Singapore, Myanmar, Uruguay, Mexico, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq, as well as the observer of the Holy See.

D. Draft decision proposed by the Chair

55. At its 55th meeting, on 20 November, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (A/73/41) (see para. 57).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

56. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Child, early and forced marriage

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 69/156 of 18 December 2014 and 71/175 of 19 December 2016 on child, early and forced marriage,

Recalling its resolutions 72/154 of 19 December 2017 on the girl child and 71/170 of 19 December 2016, entitled "Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: domestic violence", as well as Human Rights Council resolution 35/16 of 22 June 2017 on child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian settings[1] and all other previous resolutions relating to child, early and forced marriage,

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] which marks its seventieth anniversary in 2018, as well as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[3] and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[3] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[4] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[5] together with the relevant Optional Protocols thereto,[6] as well as other relevant human rights instruments, and recalling the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages,[7]

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[8] which marks its twenty-fifth anniversary in 2018, as well as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[9] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[10] and the outcome documents of their review conferences,

Taking note of the relevant agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[11] and noting the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda and the range of Goals and targets relevant to eliminating child, early and forced marriage, including target 5.3,

Taking note with appreciation of the ongoing United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child

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[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/72/53), chap. V, sect. A.

[2] Resolution 217 A (III).

[3] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[6] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531, and resolution 66/138, annex; and United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 521, No. 7525.

[8] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[9] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[10] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[11] See resolution 70/1.

Marriage, as well as international, regional, national and subnational instruments, mechanisms and initiatives to end child, early and forced marriage, including the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage, the Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage in South Asia, the Joint Inter-Agency Programme to End Child Marriage and Early Unions in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Southern African Development Community Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage, and further encouraging coordinated approaches to action at all levels,

Recognizing that child, early and forced marriage is a harmful practice that violates, abuses or impairs human rights and is linked to and perpetuates other harmful practices and human rights violations and that such violations have a disproportionately negative impact on women and girls, and underscoring the human rights obligations and commitments of States to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls and to prevent and eliminate the practice of child, early and forced marriage,

Recognizing also that social protection, education, adequate health care, nutrition, full access to clean water, including safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, skills development and the combating of discrimination and violence against girls, among other things, are all necessary for the empowerment of the girl child,

Noting the recent progress made globally towards ending child, early and forced marriage, including a decrease in the proportion of girls who were married before age 18 in the past decade from one in four to approximately one in five, while expressing concern that, despite this global trend, progress has been uneven across regions and that the current pace of change is not sufficient to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030,

Recognizing that, in some contexts, the practice of child, early and forced marriage may include arrangements that are not formalized, registered or recognized by a religious or State authority, that such arrangements should be addressed in policies and programmes on child, early and forced marriage and that the gathering of information on these arrangements will help to develop responses for affected girls and women,

Noting with concern that deep-rooted gender inequalities and stereotypes, harmful practices, perceptions and customs, and discriminatory norms are not only obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights and the empowerment of all women and girls but are also among the root causes of child, early and forced marriage, and that the persistence of child, early and forced marriage places children, in particular the girl child, at greater risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence throughout their lives,

Noting with concern also that poverty, insecurity, early pregnancy and lack of education are also among the root causes of child, early and forced marriage, that armed conflict and humanitarian emergencies are among the exacerbating factors and that child, early and forced marriage remains common in rural areas and among the poorest communities, and recognizing that the immediate alleviation and eventual eradication of extreme poverty must remain a high priority for the international community,

Recognizing that child, early and forced marriage is underrecognized and underreported and often coincides with impunity and lack of accountability, particularly at the community level, and that the persistence of child, early and forced marriage places women and girls at greater risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence throughout their lives, including marital

rape and sexual, physical and psychological violence, and reinforces the lower status of girls and adolescent girls in society,

Recognizing also that child, early and forced marriage is a major impediment to the achievement of the economic empowerment of women and their social and economic development, thereby hampering the ability of women to enter, advance and remain in the labour market, and that this harmful practice can impede economic independence and impose direct and indirect short- and long-term costs on society, and further recognizing that the economic autonomy of women can expand their options for leaving abusive relationships,

Recognizing further that child, early and forced marriage undermines women's and girls' autonomy and decision-making in all aspects of their lives and that the empowerment of and investment in all women and girls, as well as the strengthening of their voice, agency, leadership and meaningful participation in all decisions that affect them are key factors in breaking the cycle of gender inequality and discrimination, violence and poverty, and are critical, inter alia, for sustainable development, peace, security, democracy and inclusive economic growth,

Bearing in mind the vital importance of birth registration for the realization of the human rights of individuals, especially girls,

Recognizing that men and boys should play a role as strategic partners and allies of women and girls and that their meaningful engagement can contribute to transforming discriminatory social norms that perpetuate gender-based violence, as well as child, early and forced marriage, ending this practice and achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

Recognizing also that families, communities and religious, traditional and community leaders play an essential role in transforming negative social norms and confronting gender inequality, and recognizing further that empowering girls, including already married girls, requires their active participation in decision-making processes and as agents of change in their own lives and communities, including through women's and girls' organizations, with the active support and engagement of their parents, legal guardians, families and care providers, boys and men, as well as the wider community,

Recognizing further the need to support girls and women who were subjected to child, early and forced marriage, as well as their children, and underscoring the importance of removing structural barriers that prevent their access to services that respond to their specific needs,

Noting with concern that child, early and forced marriage disproportionally affects girls who have received little or no formal education and is itself a significant obstacle to educational opportunities and the development of employable skills for girls and young women, in particular girls who are forced to drop out of school owing to pregnancy, marriage, childbirth and/or childcare responsibilities, and that educational possibilities and opportunities are directly related to the empowerment of women and girls, their employment and economic opportunities and their active participation in economic, social and cultural development, governance and decision-making,

Noting with concern also that, despite gains in providing access to education, girls are still more likely than boys to remain excluded from primary and secondary education, and recognizing that the attendance of girls at school can be affected by negative perceptions of menstruation and lack of means to maintain safe personal hygiene, such as water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools that meet the needs of girls,

Recognizing that child, early and forced marriage remains a serious threat to multiple aspects of the physical and psychological health of women and girls, including but not limited to their sexual and reproductive health, significantly increasing the risk of early, frequent and unintended pregnancy, maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity, obstetric fistula and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and AIDS, as well as increasing vulnerability to all forms of violence,

Recognizing also that the incidence and risk of child, early and forced marriage can increase during humanitarian emergencies, situations of forced displacement, armed conflict and natural disasters because of various factors, including insecurity, increased risks of sexual and gender-based violence, the misconception of providing protection through marriage, gender inequality, lack of access to continuous, quality education, the stigmatization of pregnancy outside marriage, the absence of family planning services, disruption in social networks and routines, increased poverty and the absence of livelihood opportunities, and that this requires increased attention, appropriate protection measures and coordinated action by relevant stakeholders, with the full and meaningful participation of the women and girls affected, from the early stages of humanitarian emergencies, and recognizing further the importance of addressing the increased vulnerability of women and girls to sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation in those situations,

Recognizing further that preventing and ending child, early and forced marriage and supporting married girls and women affected by this harmful practice require appropriate gender- and age-sensitive protection, prevention and response measures, as well as coordinated action by relevant stakeholders, and that existing gaps in the collection and use of reliable data and evidence remain a major challenge for programming and informing appropriate measures and actions,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[12]

2. *Calls upon* States, with the participation of relevant stakeholders, including women and girls, men and boys, parents and other family members, teachers, religious, traditional and community leaders, civil society, organizations led by girls, women's organizations, youth and human rights groups, the media and the private sector, to develop and implement holistic, comprehensive and coordinated responses and strategies to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage, to support girls and women who are affected or at risk, who have fled such a marriage or whose marriage has dissolved, and widowed girls or women who were married as girls, including through the strengthening of child protection systems, protection mechanisms such as safe shelters, access to justice and the sharing of best practices across borders;

3. *Also calls upon* States to develop and implement measures at all levels to end child, early and forced marriage, including national and subnational action plans where appropriate, and to make adequate resources available across relevant sectors, including health, nutrition, protection, governance and education;

4. *Urges* States to enact, enforce and uphold laws and policies aimed at preventing and ending child, early and forced marriage, protecting those at risk and addressing the needs of those affected, and work towards the coherence of these laws and policies at the local level, to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the informed, free and full consent of the intending spouses;

5. *Calls upon* States to enact, enforce and uphold laws concerning a minimum age of marriage, to monitor their application and to progressively amend

[12] A/73/257.

laws with lower minimum ages of marriage and/or ages of majority to 18 and engage all relevant authorities to ensure that these laws are well known;

6. *Urges* States to repeal or amend laws and remove any provisions that enable perpetrators of rape, sexual abuse or abduction to escape prosecution and punishment by marrying their victims;

7. *Calls upon* States to strengthen their efforts to ensure the timely registration of births and marriages, especially for individuals living in rural and remote areas, including by identifying and removing all physical, administrative, procedural and any other barriers that impede access to registration and by providing, where lacking, mechanisms for the registration of customary and religious marriages;

8. *Also calls upon* States to promote the meaningful participation of and active consultation with children and adolescents, including already married girls, on all issues affecting them, and to raise awareness about their rights, including the negative impact of child, early and forced marriage, through safe spaces, forums and support networks, including in digital spaces, that provide information, life skills and leadership skills training and opportunities, including catch-up and literacy education, and lifelong learning opportunities, remote learning opportunities and childcare as needed, to be empowered, to express themselves, to participate meaningfully in all decisions that affect them and to become agents of change within their communities;

9. *Further calls upon* States to promote awareness-raising about the harmful effects of child, early and forced marriage on the individual and wider society and the benefits of ending this harmful practice, including through open dialogue with all stakeholders, including girls and boys, women and men, religious, traditional and community leaders, parents, legal guardians and other family members, to work with local communities to combat negative social norms and gender stereotypes that condone child, early and forced marriage, to empower parents and communities to abandon the practice and to empower all women and girls to make informed decisions about their lives;

10. *Recognizes* that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding and that parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child, acknowledging the need to support their capacity to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage, and reaffirming that the best interests of the child will be their basic concern;

11. *Urges* Governments, while addressing child, early and forced marriage, to confront family poverty and social exclusion through investing in family-oriented policies addressing the multidimensional aspects of poverty, focusing on education, health, employment, social security, livelihoods and social cohesion, paying special attention to gender-sensitive social protection measures, child allowances for parents and pension benefits for older persons and protecting, supporting and empowering children, including girls, in child-headed households;

12. *Also urges* Governments, with the collaboration of relevant stakeholders, to tackle poverty, lack of economic opportunities for women and girls, and other entrenched economic incentives that act as drivers of child, early and forced marriage, including by ensuring the rights of women and girls to inheritance and property, their equal access with men and boys to social protection, childcare services and direct financial services, to encourage girls to continue their education, including through their re-enrolment in school after childbirth, to develop livelihood opportunities through access to technical and vocational education and training and life skills education, including financial literacy, and to promote freedom of movement,

women's equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as equal political participation and rights to inherit, own and control land and productive measures;

13. *Encourages* States to promote and protect the human rights of already married girls and women affected by this harmful practice, to promote equality in all aspects of marriage and its dissolution and to address their specific needs, such as through targeted programmes that provide social services to protect them from sexual and gender-based violence, increase their decision-making power, make it easier for them to seek formal employment, increase their economic independence and financial literacy, access education, skills development programmes and lifelong learning opportunities, ensure their equal access to health-care services and information, and decrease their social isolation, including by establishing or strengthening childcare services and working with communities to change discriminatory social norms;

14. *Calls upon* States to promote and protect the right of women and girls to equal access to education through enhanced emphasis on free and quality primary and secondary education, including catch-up and literacy education for those who have not received formal education, have left school early or were forced to leave school, including because of marriage, pregnancy, childbirth and/or childcare responsibilities, which empowers young women and girls to make informed decisions about their lives, employment, economic opportunities and health, including through scientifically accurate and age-appropriate comprehensive education that is relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, and with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the best interests of the child as their basic concern, information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention, gender equality and the empowerment of women, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and foster informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers, in order to contribute to ending child, early and forced marriage;

15. *Recognizes* that education is one of the most effective ways to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage and to help married women and girls make informed decisions about their lives, and urges States to remove barriers to education, including by investing in quality primary and secondary education for every child in a safe environment, through adequate financing, ensuring that married girls and boys, pregnant girls and women and young parents continue to have access to schooling, improving access to quality formal education and skills development, especially for those living in remote or insecure areas, improving the safety of girls at and on the way to and from school, providing safe and adequate sanitation, including for menstrual hygiene management, adopting and implementing laws and policies to prohibit, prevent and address violence and to hold perpetrators accountable, strengthening and intensifying their efforts to implement effective violence prevention and response activities in schools and communities, engaging men and boys, community leaders and parents, educating children from a young age regarding their human rights and the importance of treating all people with dignity and respect, and designing educational programmes and teaching materials that support respectful relationships, non-violent behaviours, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls;

16. *Encourages* States to adopt, as appropriate, and implement inclusive policies and programmes to promote technical and vocational training and skills development and lifelong learning opportunities, including in science, technology,

engineering and mathematics and in information and communications technology, as well as higher educational opportunities for women and girls, including those at risk of or affected by child, early and forced marriage, so as to enable them to gain the knowledge, attitudes and skills that they need to fulfil their full potential;

17. *Urges* Governments to promote, respect and protect the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health through the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks and the strengthening of health systems, including health information systems, that make universally accessible and available quality, gender-responsive, adolescent-friendly health services, sexual and reproductive health-care services, information and commodities, HIV and AIDS prevention, testing, treatment and care, mental health services and nutrition interventions and prevention, treatment of and care for obstetric fistula and other obstetric complications by providing the continuum of services, including family planning, prenatal and postnatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and post-partum care;

18. *Also urges* Governments to promote and protect the human rights of all women and girls, including the right of women, and those girls who have been subjected to child, early and forced marriage, to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, and to adopt and accelerate the implementation of laws, policies and programmes that protect and enable the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[9] the Beijing Platform for Action[10] and the outcome documents of their review conferences;

19. *Urges* States to formulate or review, as needed, appropriate policies, programmes or strategies in order to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage, and address discrimination and violence, including domestic violence, which may occur against women and girls subjected to child, early and forced marriage, as well as strengthen child protection systems and provide targets and timetables for implementation;

20. *Also urges* States to ensure access to justice and accountability mechanisms and remedies for the effective implementation and enforcement of laws aimed at preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage, including by informing women, girls and boys about their rights under relevant laws, including in marriage and at its dissolution, improving legal infrastructure, removing all barriers to access to legal counselling, assistance and remedies, training law enforcement officers, the judiciary and professionals working with women and children and ensuring oversight of the handling of cases of child, early and forced marriage;

21. *Calls upon* States to develop and implement, in consultation with and with the participation of women and, as appropriate, girls, and integrate into humanitarian responses, from the early stages of humanitarian emergencies, measures to address the increased vulnerability of women and girls to child, early and forced marriage, and to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation during humanitarian emergencies, situations of forced displacement, armed conflict and natural disaster, including by ensuring their access to such services as health and education, as well as strengthening follow-up and interventions to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian settings, as well as to address the needs of those affected;

22. *Encourages* relevant United Nations entities and agencies, regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, civil society and other relevant actors and human rights mechanisms to continue to collaborate among

themselves and with Member States in developing and implementing strategies and policies at the national, regional and international levels to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage, as well as to support those who were married as children;

23. *Encourages* relevant United Nations entities and agencies, regional and subregional organizations, the international financial institutions, civil society and other relevant actors and human rights mechanisms to continue to collaborate with Member States and national statistical agencies in order to assist in strengthening and building capacity for data and reporting systems for analysing, monitoring and publicly reporting on progress to end child, early and forced marriage based on evidence;

24. *Affirms the need* for States to improve the collection and use of quantitative, qualitative and comparable data on violence against women and harmful practices, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, civil status, race, ethnicity, migratory status, geographical location, socioeconomic status, education level and other key factors, as appropriate, to enhance research and dissemination of evidence-based and good practices relating to the prevention and elimination of child, early and forced marriage and to strengthen monitoring and impact assessment of existing policies and programmes as a means of ensuring their effectiveness and implementation;

25. *Encourages* the international community to fulfil its commitment in supporting developing countries, particularly African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress, including in the context of child, early and forced marriage;

26. *Encourages* Governments to include information on progress towards eliminating child, early and forced marriage, including best practices and implementation efforts, in their national reports to relevant international treaty bodies and the universal periodic review and within the national voluntary reviews conducted through the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly, based on evidence, before the end of its seventy-fourth session, on progress towards ending child, early and forced marriage worldwide, best practices for programmes aimed at ending the practice and supporting already married girls and women affected by this practice, including girls' and women's empowerment programmes, gaps in funding, research and data collection, using information provided by Member States, United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes, civil society and other relevant stakeholders;

28. *Invites* the Commission on the Status of Women to consider child, early and forced marriage, among other issues, at its sixty-fourth session in 2020, to coincide with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

29. *Decides* to consider the issue of child, early and forced marriage at its seventy-fifth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", taking into account the multifaceted and worldwide nature of this issue.

Draft resolution II
Protecting children from bullying

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 69/158 of 18 December 2014 and 71/176 of 19 December 2016 on protecting children from bullying, all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child and the resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council that are relevant to the protection of children from bullying,

Reaffirming the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[1] and emphasizing that it constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child and that States parties to the Convention shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized therein,

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training,[2] the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Declaration of Principles on Tolerance,[3] and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Convention against Discrimination in Education,[4]

Welcoming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its entirety,[5] especially the Goals and targets aimed at ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children, and at building and upgrading education facilities that are child-, disability- and gender-sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all children, and underscoring the importance of its implementation for ensuring the enjoyment of the rights of the child,

Recognizing that the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the review by the high-level political forum on sustainable development of Goals 4 and 16, as well as the first global review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2019, each present strategic opportunities to reinforce action and accelerate progress towards the prevention and elimination of bullying and of all forms of violence against children,

Welcoming the submission of the information on national implementation efforts for the report of the Secretary-General,[6] and taking note of the report, as well as of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Recognizing the importance of international, regional and bilateral multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives to advance the effective protection and promotion of the rights of the child and the elimination of violence against children, including all forms of bullying, and in this regard noting with appreciation the efforts of, inter alia, the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children and the WeProtect Global Alliance,

Noting the organization of expert consultations at the regional level, promoted by Member States, in order to raise awareness of the impact of bullying on the rights

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[2] Resolution 66/137, annex.
[3] See A/51/201, annex, appendix I.
[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 429, No. 6193.
[5] Resolution 70/1.
[6] A/73/265.

of the child and to share experiences and best practices, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General,

Welcoming the development of national and subnational action plans and awareness-raising campaigns and the enactment of legislation by several Member States to prevent and respond to school violence and bullying, including cyberbullying,

Recognizing that bullying, including cyberbullying, can take both direct and indirect forms, from acts of physical, verbal, sexual and relational violence or aggression to social exclusion, including from peer to peer, which can inflict physical, psychological and social harm, and that, although rates differ from country to country, bullying, online or in person has a negative impact on the fulfilment of the rights of the child and is among children's main concerns, affecting a high percentage of children and compromising their health, emotional well-being and academic work, and acknowledging the need to prevent and eliminate bullying among children,

Recognizing also the importance of generating appropriate statistical information and data on bullying, disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts,

Concerned about the occurrence of bullying in all parts of the world and the fact that children who are victimized by such practices may be at heightened risk of compromising their health, emotional well-being and academic work and for a wide range of emotional and/or physical problems, as well as potential long-term effects on the individual's ability to realize his or her own potential,

Concerned also that bullying is associated with long-lasting consequences that continue on into adulthood,

Noting with concern that children who are marginalized or vulnerable, who face stigmatization, discrimination or exclusion, are disproportionately affected by bullying, both in person and online,

Recognizing that bullying often includes a gender dimension and is associated with gender-based violence and stereotyping that negatively affects both boys and girls,

Noting the risks associated with the use of new information and communications technologies and applications, including increased vulnerability to bullying, while stressing that they can create new ways to enhance education and, inter alia, foster learning and teaching on the rights of the child and can be useful tools to promote children's protection, including with appropriate guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration,

Noting also the role that information and communications technologies play in reducing the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, including by empowering children to report such abuses,

Recalling the obligations of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to ensure that parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child as well as to take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child, and recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Acknowledging the distinct and important roles that parents, legal guardians, schools, civil society, sports associations, communities, State institutions and traditional and non-traditional media each play in securing children's protection from the risks associated with bullying, including cyberbullying, and in preventing all forms of violence, including by promoting children's online safety,

Recognizing that early childhood is a critical stage for cognitive, emotional and behavioural development and that the parent-child relationship is a significant factor in predicting bullying behaviour in adolescents, as well as the existing evidence of a link between domestic violence and bullying in schools,

Emphasizing that evidence-based initiatives to strengthen children's life skills and respect for human rights, tolerance, concern for others and the responsibility to foster safety, as well as whole-school and whole-community programmes that fully respect all human rights and help to prevent and address bullying, constitute best practices that should be developed, strengthened and shared through international cooperation,

Acknowledging that children are uniquely placed to inform effective solutions and responses to bullying, underlining that children's participation and their contributions, including their views and recommendations, therefore need to be at the centre of efforts to prevent and address bullying and that their effective and meaningful participation is critical to a clear understanding of bullying and its impacts,

1. *Calls upon* Member States:

(a) To continue to take all appropriate measures to prevent and protect children, including in school, from any form of violence, including forms of bullying, by promptly responding to such acts, and to provide appropriate support to children affected by and involved in bullying;

(b) To continue to promote and invest in education, including as a long-term and lifelong process by which everyone learns tolerance and respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring such respect in all societies;

(c) To address, through necessary measures, the wider economic and social inequalities that may contribute to bullying, including, poverty, gender norms and stereotypes, taking into account that risk factors are mixed and vary depending on country and context;

(d) To develop and implement, as appropriate, measures and restorative practices to repair harm, restore relationships, avoid recidivism, promote the accountability of perpetrators and change aggressive behaviour;

(e) To generate and analyse statistical information and data disaggregated by sex, age and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, and to provide information on disability, with regard to the problem of bullying, as a basis on which to elaborate effective public policies;

(f) To adopt and strengthen, as appropriate, clear and comprehensive measures, including, where relevant, legislation, that seek to prevent and protect children from bullying, including cyberbullying, and provide for safe and child-sensitive counselling and reporting procedures and safeguards for the rights of affected children;

(g) To strengthen the capacities of schools and the skills of professionals working with children in early detection and response to prevent and respond to bullying, including cyberbullying, in particular initiatives to mobilize support to

prevent and address this phenomenon, and to ensure that children are informed of any existing public policies to secure their protection;

(h) To continue to raise public awareness, involving family members, legal guardians, caregivers, young people, schools, formal and non-formal education settings, communities, community leaders, the media, sports organizations, athletes, parents and coaches, as well as civil society organizations, with the participation of children, regarding the protection of children from bullying;

(i) To develop parenting and other skills programmes for parents, legal guardians and family members, together with social protection interventions that help to promote a nurturing family environment, reduce the risk of social exclusion and deprivation, prevent family stress and tackle negative social norms that contribute to violence against children and bullying;

(j) To involve and provide children with the opportunity to participate effectively in the development of initiatives to prevent and address bullying, including available support services and safe, accessible, age- and child-sensitive, confidential and independent counselling and reporting mechanisms, guide them in promoting inclusive and responsible digital behaviour and inform them of available mental and physical health-care services and procedures in place to support them, where they exist, and encourages Member States to make such support services available, as much as possible;

(k) To pay particular attention to children in vulnerable situations, including through efforts to promote mutual respect and tolerance for diversity in order to overcome stigmatization, discrimination or exclusion;

(l) To continue to share national experiences and best practices for preventing and tackling bullying, including cyberbullying;

2. *Encourages* Member States to continue to share with the Secretary-General, through existing processes and mechanisms, information about any initiatives undertaken at the national or subnational level to prevent and address bullying, including cyberbullying, to promote peaceful social interaction with a view to assessing progress, and to make use of the results achieved;

3. *Also encourages* Member States that have not yet done so, to adopt appropriate measures, such as plans of action on the prevention of and response to bullying, to implement them effectively and assess progress in children's protection, drawing on the experience of Member States, the United Nations, regional organizations, academia and civil society actors;

4. *Calls upon* Member States, with assistance from relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support victims of bullying with access to evidence-based, quality programmes, care and counselling for their physical, psychological and social recovery, as well as psychological care and trauma counselling, rehabilitation and social reintegration;

5. *Welcomes* the continued collaboration of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children with human rights bodies and mechanisms, within their respective mandates, including the special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, in order to support efforts to prevent and address violence against children, including bullying;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General, to facilitate further international efforts, in collaboration with Member States, to continue to raise awareness of the impact of bullying, on the basis of evidence, including through existing initiatives of United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes.

Draft resolution III
Rights of the Child

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance of its resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, by which it adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[1] which constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, reaffirming also that States parties to the Convention shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized therein, while bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention[2] and calling for their universal ratification and effective implementation, as well as that of other human rights instruments,

Recalling all of its previous resolutions on the rights of the child, the most recent of which was resolution 72/245 of 24 December 2017, and recalling all other relevant resolutions, including 71/176 of 19 December 2016 on protecting children from bullying,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[3] which proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, and noting that the year 2018 marks its seventieth anniversary,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[4] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[4] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[5] the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,[6] the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[7] and the 1967 Protocol thereto,[8] the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[9] the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[10] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[11] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[12] and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[13] as well as both the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138),[14] and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182),[15] of the International Labour Organization,

Reaffirming that the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development, provide the framework for actions concerning children,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[2] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.
[3] Resolution 217 A (III).
[4] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.
[6] Ibid., vol. 2716, No. 48088.
[7] Ibid., vol. 189, No. 2545.
[8] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.
[9] Ibid., vol. 2220, No. 39481.
[10] Ibid., vol. 2225, No. 39574.
[11] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.
[12] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[13] Ibid., vol. 1465, No. 24841.
[14] Ibid., vol. 1015, No. 14862.
[15] Ibid., vol. 2133, No. 37245.

Reaffirming also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[16] the United Nations Millennium Declaration[17] and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[18] recalling the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[19] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[20] and the outcome documents of their review conferences, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[21] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[22] the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition,[23] the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[24] and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,[25] the Declaration on the Right to Development,[26] the Declaration of the commemorative high-level plenary meeting devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children, held in New York from 11 to 13 December 2007,[27] the outcome document, entitled "The future we want", adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,[28] and the outcome document of the fourth Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour, held in Buenos Aires from 14 to 16 November 2017 and the outcome documents of previous Global Conferences, and recalling also the World Congresses against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development[29] and the World Education Forum 2015, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 19 to 22 May 2015,

Underscoring the importance of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[30] in ensuring the enjoyment of the rights of the child,

Welcoming the work undertaken on the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, to be considered for adoption in 2018, and recalling the importance of protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all refugee and migrant children, with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on progress made towards achieving the commitments set out in the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly[31] and on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in resolution 72/245,[32] as well as the

[16] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.
[17] Resolution 55/2.
[18] Resolution S-27/2, annex.
[19] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[20] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.
[21] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[22] See resolution 2542 (XXIV).
[23] *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5–16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No.E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.
[24] Resolution 61/295, annex.
[25] Resolution 69/2.
[26] Resolution 41/128, annex.
[27] Resolution 62/88.
[28] Resolution 66/288, annex.
[29] See A/69/76, annex, enclosure 2.
[30] Resolution 70/1.
[31] A/73/223.
[32] A/73/272.

report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,[33] the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict,[34] the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material,[35] and the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,[36] whose recommendations should be carefully studied, taking fully into account the views of Member States,

Reaffirming that States have the primary responsibility to respect, promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of the child,

Acknowledging the important role played by national governmental and local structures for children, including, where they exist, ministries and institutions in charge of child, family and youth issues and independent ombudspersons for children or other national institutions for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

Recognizing that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children, in the best interests of the child, and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Noting with appreciation the work to promote and protect the rights of the child carried out by all relevant organs, bodies, entities and organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, by relevant mandate holders and special procedures of the United Nations and by relevant regional organizations, where appropriate, and intergovernmental organizations, and recognizing the valuable role of national human rights institutions and civil society, including non-governmental organizations,

Noting the convening of international, regional and national meetings aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against children, including all violent punishment of children, and encouraging additional efforts in this regard,

Recognizing the importance of international, regional and bilateral multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives to advance the effective protection and promotion of the rights of the child and the elimination of violence against children,

Taking note of efforts aimed at promoting and protecting the right to education and facilitate the continuation of education in situations of armed conflict,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical, in an increasingly globalized environment, as a result of the persistence of poverty, social inequality, inadequate social and economic conditions, gender inequality, pandemics, in particular HIV/AIDS, malaria, cholera and tuberculosis, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and neonatal abstinence syndrome, non-communicable diseases, lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, environmental damage, climate change, natural disasters, armed conflict, foreign occupation, displacement, famine, violence, terrorism, abuse, all forms of exploitation, including the commercial sexual exploitation of children, for purposes such as child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, child sex tourism, trafficking in children, including for purposes of labour and sexual exploitation, organ removal and the transfer of organs of the child for profit, neglect,

[33] A/73/276.
[34] A/73/278.
[35] A/73/174 and A/73/174/Corr.1.
[36] A/73/171.

illiteracy, hunger, intolerance, discrimination, racism, xenophobia, inadequate protection and inadequate access to justice, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Profoundly concerned also that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains negatively affected by the prolonged effects of poverty and inequality, reaffirming that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, recognizing the impact of poverty beyond the socioeconomic context and the intrinsic interlinkage between poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable development, in this regard underlining the importance of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizing that a strong focus is needed on poverty, deprivation and inequality to prevent and protect children from all forms of violence and to promote the resilience of children, their families and their communities,

Deeply concerned that children disproportionately suffer the consequences of discrimination, exclusion, inequality and poverty,

Profoundly concerned that children in many parts of the world remain negatively affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, land degradation, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, which further threaten health, food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and in this regard calling for the implementation of the Paris Agreement[37] adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recognizing that the risk of maternal mortality is highest for girls under 15 years of age and that complications in pregnancy and childbirth are a leading cause of death among girls under 15 years of age in many countries,

Expressing concern that children with disabilities, particularly girls, face stigmatization, discrimination or exclusion and are disproportionally subjected to mental and physical violence and sexual abuse in all settings,

I

Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto

1. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 1 to 5 of its resolution 71/177 and that the general principles of, inter alia, the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development provide the framework for all actions concerning children;

2. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child[1] and the Optional Protocols thereto[2] as a matter of priority and to implement them effectively and fully, and encourages further efforts by the Secretary-General in this regard;

3. *Urges* States parties to withdraw reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or the Optional Protocols thereto and to consider reviewing regularly other reservations with a view to withdrawing them in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;[16]

4. *Takes note* of the work of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the sale and sexual exploitation

[37] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other sexual abuse material, and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and, in this regard, their contribution to the progress achieved in the promotion and protection of the rights of children;

II
Promotion and protection of the rights of the child and non-discrimination against children

Non-discrimination

5. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 6 to 10 of its resolution 71/177, and calls upon States to ensure the enjoyment by all children of all their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights without discrimination of any kind;

6. *Notes with concern* the large number of children belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, migrant children, refugee or asylum-seeking children, internally displaced children, children of African descent and children of indigenous origin who are victims of discrimination, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stresses the need to incorporate special measures, in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child and respect for his or her views and the child's gender-specific needs, including children with disabilities, in education programmes and programmes to combat these practices, and calls upon States to provide special support and to ensure equal access to services for those children;

7. *Calls upon* all States:

(a) To ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, on an equal basis with other children, in recognition that discrimination against any child on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the child, to enhance inclusion and address barriers faced by children with disabilities, including addressing discriminatory, attitudinal and environmental barriers to their participation and inclusion in society and in the community, and to develop gender- and age-sensitive policies and capacities to ensure the rights and address the particular needs of children, including migrant children, children without parental care, children in street situations and child victims of trafficking, and those affected by climate change, and prevent and respond to cases of gender-based violence;

(b) To take all necessary and effective measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and all forms of violence, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, rape, sexual abuse and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage, and forced sterilization, by enacting and enforcing legislation and, where appropriate, by formulating comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to protect girls, as well as by promoting awareness-raising and social mobilization initiatives for the protection of their rights;

(c) To respect and promote the right of girls and boys to express themselves freely and their right to be heard, to ensure that their views are given due weight, in accordance with their age and level of maturity, in all matters affecting them and to involve children, including children with disabilities, in decision-making processes, taking into account the evolving capacities of children and the importance of involving children's organizations and child-led initiatives;

Registration, family relations, adoption and alternative care

8. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 11 and 12 of its resolution 71/177, and urges all States parties to intensify their efforts to comply with their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to preserve the identity of children, including their nationality, name and family relations, as recognized by law, to protect children in matters relating to birth registration, family relations and adoption or other forms of alternative care, recognizing that every effort should be directed to enabling children to remain in or swiftly return to the care of their parents or, when appropriate, other close family members and that, where alternative care is necessary, family and community-based care should be promoted over placement in institutions;

9. *Recalls* every child's right to be registered immediately after birth, to a name, to acquire a nationality and to recognition everywhere as a person before the law, as set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[4] respectively, reminds States of their obligation to ensure the registration of the birth of all children without discrimination of any kind, including in the case of late birth registration, calls upon States to ensure that birth registration procedures are universal, accessible, simple, expeditious and effective and provided at minimal or no cost, and recognizes the importance of birth registration as a critical means of preventing statelessness;

10. *Encourages* States to take into account the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children,[38] to adopt and enforce laws and to improve the implementation of policies and programmes, budget allocation and human resources to support children, particularly children living in disadvantaged and marginalized families, to ensure that they are cared for effectively by their own families and communities, and to protect children growing up without parents or caregivers; where alternative care is necessary, decision-making should be in the best interests of the child, in full consultation with the child, as age appropriate, and with the child's legal guardians;

11. *Calls upon* States to take all measures necessary to prevent and combat illegal adoptions and all adoptions that are not in the best interests of the child;

Economic and social well-being of children

12. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 13 to 15 of its resolution 71/177, calls upon all States and the international community to create an enabling environment in which the well-being of the child is ensured, including by strengthening international cooperation in this field and by implementing their commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals,[30] and reaffirms that investment in children, especially for early childhood development, has high economic and social returns and that all related efforts to ensure that resources allocated and spent for children, especially on children's education and health, should serve as a means for the fulfilment of the rights of the child;

Eradication of poverty

13. *Calls upon* all States and the international community to cooperate, support and participate in the global efforts for poverty eradication, to mobilize all necessary resources and support in that regard, according to national plans and strategies, including through an integrated and multifaceted approach based on the rights and well-being of children, and to accelerate their efforts to realize the internationally agreed development and poverty eradication goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, within their time framework, and reaffirms that

[38] Resolution 64/142, annex.

investments in children and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty;

14. *Urges* States to improve the situation of children living in poverty, in particular extreme poverty, deprived of adequate food and nutrition, water and sanitation facilities, with limited or no access to basic physical and mental health-care services, shelter, education, participation and protection, taking into account that, while a severe lack of goods and services hurts every human being, it is particularly threatening and harmful to children, leaving them unable to enjoy their rights, to reach their full potential and to participate as full members of society, and exposed to conditions that lead to increased violence;

Right to education

15. *Recalls* paragraphs 37 to 50 of its resolution 70/137 and recalls that education is a fundamental human right and a basis for guaranteeing the realization of other human rights and that it is essential for sustainable development and the promotion of peace and tolerance, as well as key to achieving full employment and poverty eradication;

16. *Calls upon* all States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate obstacles to effectively accessing and completing education, such as education that is unaffordable, hunger and poor nutrition, the distance from home to school, the institutionalization of children, armed conflicts, all forms of violence in school, insufficient infrastructure, including lack of access to water and sanitation, the lack of adequate and physically and otherwise safe and accessible schooling facilities for girls and child labour or heavy domestic work, and to ensure that children who are institutionalized also enjoy their right to education;

17. *Urges* all States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against girls in the field of education and to ensure equal access for all girls to all levels of education, including through gender-responsive policies and programmes, improving the safety of girls on the way to and from school, taking steps to ensure that all schools are accessible, safe, secure and free from violence and providing separate and adequate sanitation facilities that provide privacy and dignity, thereby contributing to achieving equal opportunity and combating exclusion and ensuring school attendance, including for girls as well as for children from low-income families, children who become heads of households and girls who are already married or pregnant;

18. *Calls upon* States to scale up scientifically accurate and age-appropriate comprehensive education, relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, and with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the best interests of the child as their basic concern, with information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention, gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and foster informed decision-making, communication and risk-reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young people, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers, in order to, inter alia, enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection and other risks;

19. *Reaffirms* the right to education on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination, and calls upon States to make primary education compulsory, inclusive and available free to all children, ensuring that all children have equal access to education of good quality, making secondary education generally available and

accessible to all, in particular through the progressive introduction of free education, bearing in mind that special measures to ensure equal access, including affirmative action, contribute to achieving equal opportunity and combating exclusion by eliminating social, economic and gender disparities in education and ensuring school attendance, in particular for girls, children with disabilities, pregnant adolescent girls, children living in poverty, indigenous children, children of African descent, persons belonging to ethnic or religious minorities and children in vulnerable or marginalized situations;

20. *Calls upon* States to accelerate efforts to eliminate gender-specific barriers to the equal enjoyment by girls of their right to education, to address gender-based discrimination, negative social norms and gender stereotypes in education systems, including in curricula, textbooks and teaching methodologies, and to fight all forms of violence, including sexual harassment and school-related sexual and gender-based violence, in and out of schools and other educational settings;

Right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health

21. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 25 to 28 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon States to take all necessary measures to ensure that the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is respected, protected and fulfilled without discrimination of any kind, and that all forms of violence are prevented and addressed, in view of their negative impact on the physical and mental health of the child, including through the enactment and implementation of laws, strategies and policies, gender- and child-responsive budgeting and resource allocation, and adequate investment in health systems, including comprehensive and integrated primary health care and youth-friendly physical and mental health-care services, including in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 3 and 5, as well as in the implementation of the global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system within a national multisectoral response to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children and in the health workforce;

22. *Calls upon* States to address with all relevant stakeholders, as a matter of priority, the vulnerabilities faced by children affected by and living with HIV by providing care, support and treatment to those children, their families and caregivers and promoting rights-based and child-oriented HIV and AIDS policies and programmes, and to ensure access to affordable, effective and quality prevention, care and treatment, including through correct information, access to voluntary, confidential and affordable testing, comprehensive health care, including sexual and reproductive health care, services and education, and access to safe, affordable, effective, quality pharmaceutical products and medical technologies, by intensifying efforts to develop affordable, accessible and quality tools for early diagnosis and by prioritizing the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of the virus;

23. *Recognizes* the importance of the implementation of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation for the full realization of the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and therefore urges States and, through them, service providers to ensure a regular supply of safe, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation services of good quality and sufficient quantity, guided also by the principles of equity, equality and non-discrimination, bearing in mind that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation for their populations is to be progressively realized with full respect for national sovereignty;

Right to food

24. *Reaffirms* General Assembly resolution 72/173 of 19 December 2017 on the right to food, and the right of children to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities;

25. *Calls upon* all States to take action to ensure the full realization of the right to food for all and to eliminate child hunger and malnutrition, including through the adoption or strengthening of national programmes to address food security and nutrition and adequate livelihoods, especially regarding vitamin A, iron and iodine deficiencies, the promotion of breastfeeding and a nutritious diet, as well as programmes, for example, school meal programmes, that should ensure adequate nutrition for all children, in order to enable all children to fully develop and maintain their physical and mental capacities, and to take measures, if appropriate, with relevant international organizations, to support programmes that are aimed at combating undernutrition in mothers, in particular during pregnancy, and in children, and the irreversible effects of chronic undernutrition in early childhood, in particular from birth to the age of 2 years;

Child labour

26. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 16 to 18 of its resolution 71/177, urges States to take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour and to end child labour in all its forms, by 2025 at the latest, through stronger legislation and improved cooperation and coordination among ministries and workforces involved in social welfare and protection systems and the education and labour sectors, and to promote education as a key strategy, and urges States to continue to promote the engagement of all sectors of society in creating an enabling environment for the eradication of child labour;

Prevention and elimination of and response to of violence against children

27. *Recalls* paragraphs 19 to 36 of its resolution 72/245, and recalls article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in which States parties are required to take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child;

28. *Recalls* the United Nations study on violence against children submitted to the General Assembly in 2006,[39] notes with appreciation the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children in continuing to mainstream the study recommendations in the international, regional and national agendas and promoting progress in the protection of children from violence, and takes note with appreciation of her publication entitled "Violence prevention must start in early childhood";

29. *Condemns* all forms of violence against children in all settings, including physical, psychological and sexual violence, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, child abuse and exploitation, hostage-taking, domestic violence, incest, trafficking in or sale of children and their organs, paedophilia, child prostitution, child pornography, child sex tourism, gang and armed violence, sexual

[39] A/61/299.

exploitation of children online, bullying, including cyberbullying, and harmful practices, and urges States to strengthen efforts to prevent and protect children from all such violence through a comprehensive approach and to develop an inclusive multifaceted and systematic framework, which is integrated into national planning processes, to respond to violence against children and to provide for safe and child-sensitive counselling and reporting procedures and safeguards for the rights of affected children;

30. *Calls upon* States to protect the child from all forms of physical or psychological violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse in schools, as well as all forms of bullying, and in this context to take measures to promote non-violent forms of discipline in schools and to adopt all appropriate measures to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity and human rights by taking all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, in accordance with the best interests of the child, and in this regard welcomes the global campaign to end violence in schools;

31. *Urges* all States to address the gender dimension of all forms of violence against children and incorporate a gender perspective in all policies adopted and actions taken to protect children against all forms of violence and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage, ensuring that marriage is entered into only with the informed, free and full consent of the intending spouses, and to repeal or amend relevant laws and policies to remove any provision that may enable child, early or forced marriage or enables perpetrators of rape, sexual abuse or abduction, to escape prosecution and punishment by marrying their victims;

Promoting and protecting the rights of children, including children in particularly difficult situations

32. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 26 to 28 of its resolution 71/177, and calls upon all States to promote and protect all human rights of all children and to implement evidence-based programmes and measures that provide them with special protection and assistance, including access to inclusive and equitable quality education, health care, social services and social protection;

33. *Calls upon* all States to protect the human rights of all children and to ensure, for children belonging to minorities in vulnerable situations, including migrant children, indigenous children, children of African descent, internally displaced children and children with disabilities, the enjoyment of all human rights as well as access to health care, social services, social protection and accessible and inclusive education on an equal basis with others, and to ensure that all such children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children, internally displaced children and those who are victims of violence and exploitation, receive special protection and assistance and that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in their policies of integration, return and family reunification;

34. *Also calls upon* all States to protect refugee, asylum-seeking, migrant and internally displaced children, in particular those who are unaccompanied, who are particularly exposed to violence and risks in connection with armed conflict and trafficking in persons, and, taking into account their gender-specific needs, stresses the need for States and the international community to continue to pay more systematic and in-depth attention to the special assistance, protection and development needs of those children through, inter alia, programmes aimed at rehabilitation and physical and psychological recovery and programmes for voluntary return or repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and

resettlement, to give priority to family tracing and family reunification and reintegration, and, where appropriate, to cooperate with international humanitarian and refugee organizations, including by facilitating their work, in line with their obligations under international law;

Migrant children

35. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 40 to 87 of its resolution 71/177, and calls upon States to effectively promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all children affected by migration, regardless of their migration status, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, while recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all children affected by migration and in avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

36. *Also reaffirms* the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants,[40] welcomes the conclusion of the process of intergovernmental negotiations of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in 2018, to be considered for adoption by States at the Intergovernmental Conference to be held in Morocco on 10 and 11 December 2018, and stresses the centrality of full respect for the human rights of all migrants, including migrant children;

37. *Takes note* of the joint general comments of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on the human rights of children in the context of international migration;

38. *Expresses deep concern* regarding the large and growing number of migrant children, particularly those who are unaccompanied or separated from their parents or primary caregivers, who may be particularly vulnerable along their journey, and expresses the commitment to protect the human rights of migrant children, given their vulnerability, in particular unaccompanied migrant children and migrant children with disabilities, to ensure that they receive appropriate protection and assistance and to provide for their health, education and psychosocial development, ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in policies on integration, return and family reunification;

39. *Urges* States to ensure, in conformity with their international and domestic obligations and commitments, that return is consistent with international law, including international human rights law, and that repatriation mechanisms allow for the identification and special protection of persons in vulnerable situations, including all migrant children, and to take into account the principle of the best interests of the child, clarity of reception and care arrangements and family reunification;

40. *Welcomes* programmes that allow migrant children to integrate fully into countries of destination, promote a harmonious, inclusive and respectful environment and facilitate family reunification in order to promote the welfare and the best interests of migrant children and adolescents, as applicable under national law, due process and the relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, and to comply with the consular notification and access obligations set forth in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations[41] so that States may provide child-sensitive consular assistance, as appropriate, including legal assistance;

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[40] Resolution 71/1.

[41] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 596, No. 8638.

Children and the administration of justice

41. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 29 to 31 of its resolution 71/177, and calls upon all States to respect and protect the rights of child victims and witnesses and children alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law, as well as children of persons alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law, and to ensure that the arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child should be in conformity with the law and should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time;

42. *Urges* States to intensify their efforts to protect children deprived of their liberty from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, to ensure that, if they are arrested, detained or imprisoned, children are provided with prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance and have the right to challenge the legality of the deprivation of their liberty before a court or other competent, authority and to a prompt decision on any such action and that, from the moment they are arrested, children have the right to maintain contact with their family through correspondence and visits, save in exceptional circumstances, that no child is sentenced or subjected to forced labour, corporal punishment or emotional or physical violence or deprived of access to and provision of health care and services, hygiene and environmental sanitation, nutritious food, access to open space for recreation, education, basic instruction and vocational training and access to safe, confidential and independent mechanisms to report on violence, and that the conditions in such settings are regularly and effectively monitored, and to undertake prompt investigations of all reported acts of violence and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable;

43. *Encourages* continued regional and cross-regional efforts, the sharing of best practices and the provision of technical assistance in the field of juvenile justice, and in this regard recalls the validity and importance of international standards and norms in the field of human rights in the administration of juvenile justice;

Prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

44. *Reaffirms* paragraph 32 of its resolution 71/177, and calls upon all States to prevent, criminalize, prosecute and punish all forms of the sale and trafficking of children, including for the purposes of removal of organs of the child, child slavery, forced labour and the sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution and child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, with the aim of eradicating those practices, including when perpetrated using the Internet and other information and communications technologies, to combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices and take measures to eliminate the demand that fosters them, as well as to address the rights and needs of victims effectively, including universal access to comprehensive social, physical and mental health and legal services, without discrimination of any kind, and counselling for all victims to ensure their full recovery and reintegration into society, and to take effective measures against the criminalization of children who are victims of exploitation;

45. *Calls upon* States to enact and enforce the necessary legislative or other measures, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and the media, to prevent the distribution over the Internet of child sexual abuse material, including depictions of child sexual abuse, ensuring that adequate mechanisms are in place to enable the reporting and removal of such material and that its creators, distributors and collectors are prosecuted, as appropriate, while working towards ensuring that the opportunities provided by information and communications technologies in the lives of children, as tools for learning, socialization, expression,

inclusion and fulfilment of their rights and fundamental freedoms, such as the right to education and the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and the right to express their views freely, are used to their fullest;

46. *Urges* States to intensify their efforts to ensure the legal protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation online and to define it legally, in accordance with international human rights law and obligations, to criminalize all relevant conduct related to the sexual exploitation of children online and offline and to ensure that all those in the whole chain of individuals involved in or attempting to commit such criminal activities are held accountable and brought to justice in order to fight impunity, taking into account the multi-jurisdictional and transnational nature of child sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated online through information and communications technologies;

Children affected by armed conflict

47. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 33 to 39 of its resolution 71/177, condemns in the strongest terms all violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict, and in this regard urges all States and other parties to armed conflict that are engaged, in contravention of applicable international law, in the recruitment and use of children, in patterns of killing and maiming of children and/or rape and other sexual violence against children, acknowledging that sexual violence in these situations disproportionately affects girls, but that boys are also targets, in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals and related personnel and in patterns of abduction of children, as well as in all other violations and abuses against children, to take time-bound and effective measures to end and prevent them and to encourage age- and gender-specific support services, including psychological, social and sexual and reproductive health-care services, and education, social protection and reintegration programmes, and notes in this regard the adoption of by the Security Council of resolution 2427 (2018) of 9 July 2018;

48. *Condemns in the strongest terms* rape and other forms of sexual violence committed against children in armed conflict, expresses deep concern at mass and systematic rape and sexual violence committed against children in armed conflict, in some instances calculated to humiliate, dominate, instil fear in and disperse and/or forcibly displace a population, calls upon all States and relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and regional organizations to take all necessary measures to prevent and address such acts of violence and ensure full accountability on this issue, as well as on the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse of children in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and urges States to adopt appropriate national legislation to prevent such crimes, as well as mass abductions and sexual and gender-based violence, and to ensure their rigorous investigation and prosecution;

49. *Expresses its deep concern* about attacks, as well as threats of attack, in contravention of international humanitarian law, against schools and/or hospitals and related personnel, as well as the closure of schools and hospitals in situations of armed conflict as a result of attacks and threats of attack, recalls that all parties to armed conflict bear the primary responsibility for the protection of children, recalls the obligation to refrain from attacking schools and hospitals, in contravention of international humanitarian law, and to take all feasible precautionary measures to protect civilians from such attacks, in particular school children, and urges all parties to armed conflict to refrain from actions that impede the access of children to education and health-care services;

50. *Calls upon* all Member States to ensure that children associated or allegedly associated with armed groups should be treated primarily as victims and in

line with the best interests of the child, and to consider non-judicial measures as alternatives to prosecution and detention and take measures that focus on rehabilitation and reintegration in an environment that fosters their health, self-respect and dignity of the child, in accordance with relevant provisions of international humanitarian law, as well as human rights law, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

51. *Calls upon* States to protect children affected by armed conflict, in particular from violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and to ensure that they receive timely, effective humanitarian assistance, noting the efforts taken to end impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators, and calls upon the international community to hold those responsible for violations accountable, inter alia, through the International Criminal Court;

52. *Recalls* that, in accordance with international humanitarian law, indiscriminate attacks against civilians, including children, are prohibited and that they shall not be the object of attack, including by way of reprisal or excessive use of force, condemns practices resulting in the killing and maiming of children, demands that all parties immediately put an end to such attacks, and urges all parties to armed conflict to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, in particular the principles of distinction, proportionality and the obligation to take all feasible precautions to avoid and, in any event, minimize harm to civilians and civilian objects;

53. *Calls upon* States to ensure timely and adequate funding for national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes for children and for settlement, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts for all children associated with armed forces and groups, including detained children, particularly in support of national initiatives, and to secure the long-term sustainability of such efforts, including through the use of a multisectoral and community-based approach that is inclusive of all children, family-based care arrangements, as also highlighted in the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (the Paris Principles), and the mobilization of financial resources and technical assistance from international cooperation for rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for children;

54. *Notes with appreciation* the steps taken regarding Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004) of 22 April 2004, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068 (2012) of 19 September 2012, 2225 (2015) of 18 June 2015 and 2427 (2018) and the efforts of the Secretary-General to implement the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict in accordance with those resolutions, with the participation of and in cooperation with national Governments and relevant United Nations and civil society actors, including at the country level, requests the Secretary-General to ensure that information collected and communicated by the monitoring and reporting mechanism is accurate, objective and verifiable, and in this regard encourages the work and the deployment of United Nations child protection advisers in peacekeeping operations and political and peacebuilding missions;

III
Follow-up

55. *Expresses support* for the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, and recognizes the progress achieved since the establishment of her mandate in promoting the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children in all regions and in advancing the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on violence

against children, including through partnerships with regional organizations, as well as advocacy through thematic consultations, field missions and thematic reports addressing emerging concerns, including on violence prevention in early childhood;

56. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General extend the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, as established in paragraphs 58 and 59 of its resolution 62/141 of 18 December 2007, for a further three years, and maintain support for the effective and independent performance and sustainability of the mandate of the Special Representative, funded from the regular budget;

57. *Urges* all States, requests United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and invites regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children in promoting the further implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on violence against children and in supporting Member States in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, encourages States to provide support to the Special Representative, including adequate voluntary financial support for the continued, effective and independent performance of her mandate, and invites organizations, including the private sector, to provide voluntary contributions for that purpose;

58. *Recalls* paragraph 52 (d) of its resolution 69/157 of 18 December 2014, in which it invited the Secretary-General to commission an in-depth global study on children deprived of their liberty, to be funded through voluntary contributions, also recalls paragraph 88 of its resolution 71/177 and paragraph 37 of its resolution 72/245, in which it invited the designated independent expert to submit a final report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, and in this regard encourages Member States and United Nations agencies, funds, programmes and offices, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to and support the elaboration of the study;

59. *Decides*:

(a) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a comprehensive report on the rights of the child containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and on the issues addressed in the present resolution, with a focus on children without parental care;

(b) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda;

(c) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, in carrying out her mandate for the protection of children in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, to continue to engage proactively with relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, Member States, regional and subregional organizations and non-State armed groups, including by negotiating action plans, securing commitments, advocating for appropriate response mechanisms and ensuring attention and follow-up to the conclusions and recommendations of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, and reaffirms the important role the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict can play in contributing to conflict prevention;

(d) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to continue to submit annual reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in fulfilment of her mandate, consistent with paragraphs 58 and 59 of its resolution 62/141, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the violence against children agenda;

(e) To request the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining in the prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the sexual exploitation and abuse of children;

(f) To invite the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

(g) To invite Member States and relevant United Nations bodies to formally commemorate the upcoming thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2019, including by convening a high-level plenary meeting of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, in an intergovernmental effort to maintain momentum and increase action on the rights of the child, and requests the President of the General Assembly to conduct consultations with Member States to finalize through a modalities resolution the organizational and procedural arrangements for the high-level plenary meeting;

(h) To continue its consideration of the question at its seventy-fourth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children".

57. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Document considered by the General Assembly in connection with the promotion and protection of the rights of children

The General Assembly takes note of the Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child,[1] submitted under the item entitled "promotion and protection of the rights of children".

[1] A/73/41.